

A JAR OF OIL II KINGS 4:1-6

Now the wife of a son of the prophets cried to Elisha, Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord. But the creditor has come to take my two sons to be his slaves. Elisha said to her, What shall I do for you? Tell me, what have you in the house? She said, Your handmaid has nothing in the house except a jar of oil. Then he said, go around and borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels – and not a few. And when you come in, shut the door upon you and your sons. Then pour out into all those vessels, setting aside each one when it is full. So she went from him and shut the door upon herself and her sons, who brought to her the vessels as she poured the oil. When the vessels were all full, she said to her son, Bring me another vessel. And he said to her, there is not a one left. Then the oil stopped multiplying.

There is something of great beauty related to the nation of Israel hidden in this story, like in so many other stories in the Old Testament. But first let's see about the meaning and symbol of oil in the Bible, a subject probably well known to you, but still of great significance. In the Bible time, oil was used for anointing, which was the act of separating, consecrating and dedicating one to serve God, as we see it done in the Old Testament in the lives of kings, priests, prophets. Oil was also used as means of refreshing the body and to this day it is used in some cultures and in the New Testament, for the anointing of the sick (James 5:14).

In the spiritual world, oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. In Luke 4:18 we see that the Spirit of the Lord and the oil in the anointing are directly connected: The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the good news to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those those who are oppressed. Oil as the symbol of the Holy Spirit, provides light to the understanding of Scriptures among many other things. Yahshua, when about to leave the earth, said, When the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, He will testify regarding me; He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (John 15: 26; 16:8). Having the Holy Spirit in us, is to have His anointing oil do serve and obey Him when we submit to Him. His presence is so very important for us to be ready for the coming of Yahshua to rapture us. With His presence guiding us in all we plan and do, shining the light in the darkness of our souls, convicting us of our sins and sanctifying us by our trials and tribulations, preparing us to to meet our Bridegroom is of great reward. There are many in the churches, however whose lives are empty of the oil– presence of the Holy spirit; they are lamps whose wicks are so dry, their lives offer no testimony showing to have a relationship with God, they are ignorant and unprepared to meet the King, and walk in the darkness of their understanding, stumbling knowing not where they are to go, as in the case of the five virgins who were found unprepared by the emptiness of oil in their lamps.

In the story above, this widow had the most important thing: she had a little oil, and I am sure if she had had flour Elisha would have made it to work, too. However oil is of greater significance. Here she represents Israel in the time of tribulation. Her two sons represent Judah

and Ephraim in the two thousand years in slavery to sin, and in debt to God and under condemnation for having rejected His Son, Messiah. Israel is today an empty vessel and needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit. But at the time of tribulation this empty vessels will be filled with the Presence of the Holy Spirit behind closed doors due to persecution. Her action represents also the remnant Jews in the period of the tribulation, who will share the Gospel – (the filling the vessels with oil) behind closed doors. At that time there will be a great revival in the Land – (the filling of the vessels with oil) – the acceptance of Messiah by the Jewish nation. Their debt will be paid in full by their acceptance of their Messiah, (go sell the oil and pay your debt) as we read in Zechariah 12:10, And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace, and they shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn; I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined and will test them as gold is tested, and they will call on My name, and I will hear and answer them, I will say, It is My people; and they will say, The Lord is my God (Zechariah 13:9) And afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered and saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the remnant shall be those whom the Lord calls (Joel 2:32).

THINK ABOUT IT!